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grain the going quotation in the big terminal market, less the handling and shipping costs" (p. 20). In falling back on the authority of an ex-president and a president of the State Agricultural College, however, Gaston is led into grave error as to "losses" in the present grain marketing system.

Gaston's discussion of the "luxury" of the life of the "speculators," of the evils of future trading, of the "grain board" that "controls the market" (p. 23), of the terminal elevator situation, of dockage, mixing, grading, weighing, of grain prices being always "low in the fall" when the farmer sells, and "high in the spring" (p. 28) when the farmer buys, represents the tenor of Townley's speeches on the grain trade, and the "educational matter" put out by him in the two League dailies and the one hundred and nine League weeklies. These "evils" are, since the farmers' elevators abolished the monopoly price-fixing, almost wholly imaginary. The League's new law on the grain trade and terminal elevator question had, according to Gaston "a wonderful effect" within a few months, resulting in "higher grading" and "less deduction of dockage" and "improved the prices paid" (p. 152). The wish is father to the thought here!

Gaston has given us a faithful report on the philosophy and deeds of his chief in organizing a new agrarian party with a platform of state socialism.

JAMES E. BOYLE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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*The Casual Laborer and Other Essays.* By CARLETON H. PARKER.

New York: Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1920. Pp. 199.

The collection consists of four papers on the labor problem, three of which had been previously published, with an introduction by Mrs. Parker.

The first paper apparently makes its initial appearance, but much of the subject-matter as well as the point of view was given in the *American Idyll*. It is an attempt to get the attitude of the psychologist with reference to the problem of labor unrest. His two postulates are: "That human life is dynamic, that change, movement, evolution are its basic characteristics." "That self expression and therefore freedom of choice and movement are prerequisites to a satisfying human state."

His conclusion is that "the problem of industrial labor is one of mal-adjustment between a fixed human nature and a carelessly ordered world." This inconsistency in his main contention regarding human

nature as *fixed* and as *changing* may be due to the fact that, as Mrs. Parker says, the paper was not written for publication. It is interesting also to speculate, in connection with his second postulate, on just how happy we would be living in a civilization (if one might call it such) "freed from balkings and inhibitions."

The papers on "The Casual Laborer" and "The I.W.W." contain valuable material on the conditions under which the workmen lived and seem to the reviewer to be the real contribution of the volume. Mr. Parker had practically lived among them and knew their points of view, their weaknesses, and their attempts at justification of their own behavior.

When the author confines himself to a statement of facts he is successful. When he attempts interpretations he becomes confused by his own conflicting tendencies. Notice his main contention, the dominance of instincts, and the conclusion of the second paper: "As a class the migratory laborers are nothing more nor less than the finished products of their environment," and later, "The environment has produced its type." Evidently not much domination by original equipment here. Again, in the chapter on the I.W.W. he says that "any explanatory analysis should deal and deal alone with the antecedent experiences which produce in a most natural and everyday manner those practiced habits which we describe as 'being an I.W.W.'"

The final paper, "Motives in Economic Life," has been more discussed than most journal articles. It consists largely of a "catalogue of instinct unit characters" and an insistence that these are far less modified by experience than others have supposed. His treatment of these as distinct behavior tendencies recalls the discarded faculty psychology. The Freudian view of repressions of instincts and a resulting emotional disorganization is brought over from psychopathology to the social problems in industry with the general conclusions of the first paper, namely, that "the instincts and their emotions, coupled with the obedient body, lay down in scientific and exact description the motives which must and will determine human conduct" (p. 161). There seems, in this, to be little recognition of adaptation, habit, intelligence, or volition.

Had Mr. Parker lived longer he would doubtless have recognized these inconsistencies in his borrowings from other fields, as Mrs. Parker seems to have recognized them. In their present state the essays reveal a lack in the organization of his new ideas as well as a faulty perspective in the arrangement of his biological and psychological material. His

purpose, however, is admirable, and has brought about an advance on the line he set out upon, namely the study of human behavior, as such, where it assists in the understanding of economic conditions. Psychologists are anxious to admit that there is value in the psychologist's method and point of view for those who are dealing with human problems.

FLORENCE RICHARDSON

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO